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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,727	11/30/2001	Edwin Tse	P 15392	4469

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EXAMINER

DOAN, DUYEN MY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,727

Applicant(s)

TSE ET AL.

Examiner

Duyen M. Doan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/03/01
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-36 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 13 and 25 are confusing because "node" is a word that is sometimes to describe hardware and other times used to describe software.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 32 is non-statutory for the reason that it is not store on a computer-readable medium to enable any functionality.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 13-19, 25-28, 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagasawa (us pat 6094682).

As regarding claim 1, Nagasawa disclosed a) in a first management node of the management system, appending an identification of the first management node to a path portion of an alarm identifier field of the alarm notification (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21); b) transmitting the alarm notification from the first management node to a third management node of the management system (col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21); wherein the alarm notification comprises a system identification field for identifying a node that lastly handled the alarm notification, the alarm identifier field for identifying the alarm notification (col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21), and an alarm attribute field carrying an alarm payload (col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21), wherein the alarm identifier field comprises an alarm identifier portion and the path portion having at least one first member related to the identification of the first management node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 2, Nagasawa disclosed inserting an identification of the first management node in the system identification field of the alarm notification (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 3, Nagasawa disclosed the identification of the first management node is a system distinguished name (SystemDN), and the system

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identification field is a SystemDN field (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 4, Nagasawa disclosed the alarm notification is created by the first management node and the path portion of the alarm identifier comprises only one first member comprising the identification of the first management node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 5, Nagasawa disclosed the identification of the first management node is a system distinguished name (SystemDN) of the first management node that identifies the first management node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 6, Nagasawa disclosed receiving the alarm notification by the first management node from a second management node, the path portion of the alarm identifier of the received alarm notification comprising a second member related to the identification of the second management node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21); wherein in step a), the first management node appends the first member comprising its own identification to the path portion of the alarm identifier field of the alarm notification (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 7, Nagasawa disclosed the first member comprises a system distinguished name (SystemDN) of the first management node that identifies the first management node; and the second member comprises a SystemDN of the second management node that identifies the second management node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claims 13-19 the limitations are similar to claims 1-7, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claims 1-7.

As regarding claim 25, Nagasawa disclosed A first management node acting to handle an alarm notification message, the alarm notification message comprising a system distinguished name field, an alarm identifier field and an alarm attribute field, wherein when handling the alarm notification message, the first management node appends its identification to a path portion of the alarm identifier field (col.4, lines 5-55, col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67).

As regarding claim 26, Nagasawa disclosed the alarm notification message is received by the first management node from a second management node and is forwarded by the first management node to third management node, wherein the first management node appends its own identification to the path portion of the alarm identifier field that already comprises an identification of the second management node (col.4, lines 5-55, col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67).

As regarding claim 27, Nagasawa disclosed the alarm identifier field of the alarm notification message further comprises a system distinguished name field where the first management node inserts its identification before forwarding the alarm notification to the third node (col.4, lines 5-55, col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67).

As regarding claim 28, Nagasawa disclosed receiving from the third node an alarm operation message identified by, and comprising, the alarm identifier field, and upon receipt of the alarm operation message, the first management node removing its own identification from the path portion of the alarm identifier field, and if another node's

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identification is detected in the path portion, forwarding the alarm operation message without its own identification to a node corresponding to the another node identification (col.4, lines 5-55, col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67).

As regarding claim 32, Nagasawa disclosed a system identification field for identifying the first node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21); an alarm identifier field for identifying the alarm notification, wherein the alarm identifier field comprises a path portion comprising an identification of a path followed by the alarm notification, and an alarm identification portion comprising an alarm identification assigned by a creator node of the alarm notification; and an alarm attribute field carrying an alarm payload (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 33, Nagasawa disclosed the path portion's identification comprises a first member identifying the first node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 34, Nagasawa disclosed the alarm is received by the first node from a third node, and the path portion's identification further comprises a second member identifying the third node (col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-12, 20-24, 29-31, 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasawa (us pat 6094682) in view of Fulford (us pat 6237034).

As regarding claim 8, Nagasawa disclosed all limitations of claim 1 above, but did not expressly disclose e) receiving by the third management node the alarm notification from the first management node; f) sending an alarm operation message from the third management node to the first management node to instruct an operation regarding the alarm notification, the alarm operation message comprising an alarm identifier field for identifying the alarm notification on which the operation is to be performed which is identical to the alarm identifier field of the alarm notification; g) upon receipt of the alarm operation message by the first management node, extracting a path portion of the alarm identifier field received in the alarm operation message; and h) if the extracted path portion comprises not only one first member comprising the identification of the first management node, but also a second member related to the identification of the second management node: h.1) removing the first member from the path portion of the alarm operation message's alarm identifier field; h.2) sending from the first management node to the second management node the alarm operation message without the first member in the path portion.

Fulford taught e) receiving by the third management node the alarm notification from the first management node (col.3, lines 11-56, col.4, lines 1-67, col.6, lines 10-49); f) sending an alarm operation message from the third management node to the first management node to instruct an operation regarding the alarm notification, the alarm

operation message comprising an alarm identifier field for identifying the alarm notification on which the operation is to be performed which is identical to the alarm identifier field of the alarm notification (col.3, lines 11-56, col.4, lines 1-67, col.6, lines 10-49); g) upon receipt of the alarm operation message by the first management node, extracting a path portion of the alarm identifier field received in the alarm operation message (col.3, lines 11-56, col.4, lines 1-67, col.6, lines 10-49); and h) if the extracted path portion comprises not only one first member comprising the identification of the first management node, but also a second member related to the identification of the second management node: h.1) removing the first member from the path portion of the alarm operation message's alarm identifier field; h.2) sending from the first management node to the second management node the alarm operation message without the first member in the path portion (col.3, lines 11-56, col.4, lines 1-67, col.6, lines 10-49).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Fulford in Nagasawa such that have the alarm operation message send back from the third management node to the original node which produced the alarm because both Fulford and Nagasawa has taught inventions relating to alarm notification and acknowledgement in a management system.

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Nagasawa because having the alarm operation message send back from the third management node to the original node which produced the alarm, would

help in circulating alarm acknowledgement information within a telecommunication network (see Fulford col.1, lines 9-25).

As regarding claim 9, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed if the extracted path portion comprises only the first member comprising the identification of the first management node, processing the alarm operation message locally in the first management system (see Fulford col.3, lines 11-56, col.4, lines 1-67, col.6, lines 10-49). The same motivation was utilized in claim 8 applied equally well to claim 9.

As regarding claim 10, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed the alarm operation message is an alarm acknowledgement message (see Fulford col.4, lines 29-37). The same motivation was utilized in claim 8 applied equally well to claim 10.

As regarding claim 11, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed the alarm operation message is an alarm acknowledgement message (see Fulford col.4, lines 29-37). The same motivation was utilized in claim 8 applied equally well to claim 11.

As regarding claim 12, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed sending from the first management node to the second management node the alarm acknowledgement message comprising: the alarm identifier field comprising first, a path portion having the second member related to the identification of the second management node and, second, an alarm identifier portion for identifying the alarm referred to by the alarm acknowledgement message; and an alarm attribute field carrying an alarm attribute identical to the alarm attribute field of the alarm notification (see Nagasawa col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claims 20-24, the limitations are similar to claims 8-12, therefore rejected for the same rationale as claims 8-12.

As regarding claim 29, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed receiving from the third node an alarm operation message identified by, and comprising, the alarm identifier field, and upon receipt of the alarm operation message, the first management node detecting its own identification from the path portion of the alarm identifier field, and if no another node's identification is detected in the path portion, processing the alarm operation message locally in the first management node (see Nagasawa col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

As regarding claim 30, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed the alarm operation message is an alarm acknowledgement message (see Fulford col.4, lines 29-37). The same motivation was utilized in claim 8 applied equally well to claim 30.

As regarding claim 31, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed the alarm operation message is an alarm acknowledgement message (see Fulford col.4, lines 29-37). The same motivation was utilized in claim 8 applied equally well to claim 31.

As regarding claim 35, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed path portion's identification comprises a series of members wherein each member identifies each one node the alarm notification traversed (see Fulford col.3, lines 11-56, col.4, lines 1-67, col.6, lines 10-49). The same motivation was utilized in claim 8 applied equally well to claim 35.

As regarding claim 36, Nagasawa-Fulford disclosed the alarm identifier field comprises a string of alphanumeric characters identifying the path portion and the alarm

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identification portion (see Nagasawa col.6, lines 58-67, col.7, lines 24-67, col.8, lines 1-21).

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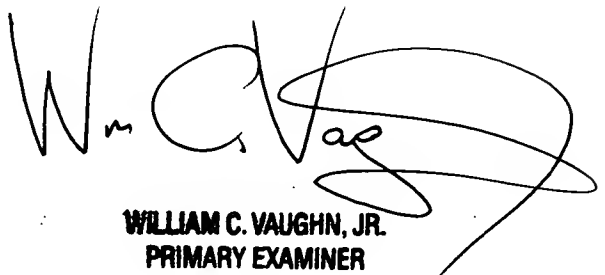
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duyen M. Doan whose telephone number is (571) 272-4226. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Examiner
Duyen Doan
Art unit 2143

DD



WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER